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THE NEW OUTLOOK IN CHEMISTRY¹

*Your Excellencies, Your Magnificence,
Ladies and Gentlemen:*

To-day there has come together here, to welcome a new guest to your noble university, a group of chosen spirits from among the best in this highly cultivated center of learning and civilization. I see before me many men whose names will go down to the future as leaders in their respective widely different fields of work, and rejoice to be in their presence. The opportunity of addressing a gathering so notable could not but be esteemed by anyone as an especial privilege and honor; and to me, whose debt to German scholarship is so exceedingly great, the occasion brings peculiar pleasure.

You are here not only to welcome graciously a newcomer, but also to hear the first lecture of a course concerning one of the most recent developments of human learning. As is well known, the logical process of inductive reasoning based upon carefully planned experiment is relatively a new manifestation of the power of the human intellect. The philosophers of old imagined, observed and reasoned, but neglected experimentation; the artisans, who alone came into close contact with realities, were unable except in the crudest fashion to generalize concerning their results. Because of this separation of thought and deed, man's knowledge of his

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¹ Inaugural lecture delivered on May 4, 1907, in the Aula of the Royal Friedrich Wilhelm University of Berlin.